

# Nativity News

*The Newsletter of the Cathedral Parish of  
the Nativity Blessed Virgin Mary*

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April/May 2008

## ALLELUIA! ISN'T IT GREAT TO BE ALIVE?

Mary of Magdala comes to the tomb early on the first day of the week. Was she headed there to properly prepare the Lord's body for burial? Was she headed there to pray and mourn the loss of the one who had inspired so many? What did she find? Nothing! The tomb is empty. She runs to tell the disciples. Peter and the beloved disciple run to the tomb and find it empty with the burial cloths still there. In the gospel it says that the beloved disciple saw the stone rolled away, the empty tomb, the rolled up burial cloths, and believed. Somehow he was able to take the evidence at hand and make that courageous leap of faith. While others might have come to the conclusion that Jesus' body was stolen, the beloved disciple came to a much different one.



The changes that took place in the first disciples did not result in them simply believing something new, but *being* something new. This is what was so startling to outsiders. After the resurrection the followers of Jesus began living their lives in a whole new way, with a whole new outlook, with new direction and hope. To many this was evidence of a God who was surely dwelling in them and transforming them from death to life.

It is exactly the same for us. The same graces and blessings which were showered down upon those first disciples are also poured out on us every day. We do believe in faith that Jesus rose from the dead and conquered death. Yet are we convinced that the Paschal Mystery is the pattern for our lives? The Paschal Mystery is the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the pattern of our entire lives. God raises us from our daily sufferings and "little deaths" to new life. God transforms our struggles into things filled with meaning and hope. The resurrected Lord can take the most hopeless of situations, and in them, help us see God and beauty.

That is the first step in living life in a whole new way, experiencing life to its fullest. There are empty tombs all around us—these are signs of God's saving and transforming love. Day after day, God is at work in the lives of each of us and those around us, healing us, comforting us, making us

more than we ever were before. The evidence is there in those empty tombs, those burial cloths no longer needed. The risen Lord is raising us up continually, each and every day from the tiny deaths we experience all the time. The key to our transformation is looking at the world around us through the eyes of faith. If we can do that, we will see the Paschal Mystery stamped all over our lives and the lives of others.

Many scripture scholars hold that the beloved disciple is purposely unnamed so that each of us can place our selves in the position of beloved disciple of Jesus. When we can see with the eyes of faith like the beloved disciple, it is great to be alive! This world is a beautiful place! This goodness may be hard to see some times, but it truly is. Our lives are beautiful, the lives we can live immersed in the great mystery we celebrate in the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Some of our problems may never go away, or will be replaced by other ones—but these problems and little deaths don't have to get the best of us, they don't have to have the last word—God does. And the last word is that from death comes life when united to the Paschal Mystery of Jesus.

Let us run to tell others of the empty tombs, the burial cloths no longer needed and the new life we have received from God in our life again and again. Then we can like, Mary of Magdala witness to the resurrection and share the good news that Jesus is truly risen making all things new! Isn't it great to be alive?!

Shalom,  
Fr. Thomas

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**MEMORIAL DAY AT THE  
SHRINE OF ST. THERESE**  
**Monday, May 26th...rain or shine!**  
**Rosary at 11:00am**  
**Mass at 12:30pm,**  
**Archbishop Roger Schwietz, OMI presiding**  
**followed by spaghetti lunch prepared by**  
**Bishop Kenny Council Knights of Columbus**

## FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP INSERT

Inserted in this issue of the Nativity News is a summary sheet of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' document, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. This statement continues a more than thirty-year tradition by the bishops of encouraging Catholics to use the values of their faith to shape their participation in political life. It focuses on helping Catholics form their consciences so they can make sound moral judgments about public choices. Faithful Citizenship highlights four areas of special concern: (1) defending human life, (2) promoting family life, (3) pursuing social justice, and (4) practicing global solidarity. Later this year there will be an opportunity to view the DVD *A Call to Political Responsibility* from the Catholic Bishops of the United States and have a discussion (the DVD is back ordered). You are encouraged to read this summary and if you are interested in the full document and more resources on the moral obligation for a Catholic to participate in political life, please visit [www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org).

are made in the image and likeness of God. God wants only the best for us. Where is God then?

The first thing I do after listening to a patient's story is to reassure him/her that God is a God of love, not a God of punishment. God is not punishing us and God is never going to leave us. God is there with us every moment, at every step of our journey, even in our darkness. Jesus himself experienced darkness when he called from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" God knows darkness then through the human experience of Jesus, so it can be comforting to know that God understands it.

However depression comes into a person's life, whether it have a genetic cause, be brought about by loss or grief, or come from seemingly nowhere, it is a terrible burden to bear. It's hard to explain why one person in a family is afflicted and no one else is. It's also difficult to see how any good can come from bearing this burden. Once in a while someone will see depression as a good, as in the case of a woman whose darkness not only led her to seek help but also to face her addiction to alcohol. This is not typical though, and families suffer along with the person with depression.

At the end of my visit I usually pray with them and promise to continue to keep them in prayer. Many will continue to suffer depression for the rest of their lives, but I hope I have been a human face for God's presence, a presence which will be with them always. I also hope that they leave me never again thinking they **deserve** to be depressed.



### FROM SR. MARIE LUCEK, OP CATHEDRAL PASTORAL ASSOCIATE GOD AND DEPRESSION

Every four months I have the opportunity to serve for a week as a volunteer chaplain for Bartlett Regional Hospital. During that week I meet many interesting people from various places throughout Southeast Alaska.

One unit I visit only when I have a request is the Mental Health Unit. In this unit I meet, among others, people who are severely depressed, some of whom have attempted suicide. At first I went into this area with some trepidation because I didn't know if I would know what to say. What I found is a great desire just to be listened to, to be accepted in their vulnerability, and to share their story without being judged or pitied.

Why me? This is often the question I hear. Depression brings such blackness, such hopelessness, that it's hard to find where God is. One person thought she was being punished and another didn't necessarily think of it as punishment but thought he **must** have done something to deserve this.

Depression is a mystery. There is no other answer that makes sense. There is nothing God wants more for us than our wholeness, for us to become our best self. After all, we

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## Cathedral Young Adult Group

*What is a young adult group? Catholic parishes across the country have young adult groups for parishioners ages 18 to 40. These groups do service projects, prayer experiences, hiking, "theology on tap," dinner parties, small faith communities, Bible study . . . The possibilities are endless. If you have suggestions, or would like to be added to our e-mail list, contact Katy: 586-1317 or [cathedraldre@acsalaska.net](mailto:cathedraldre@acsalaska.net).*

### Young Adult Group Schedule for April & May

**April 29<sup>th</sup>:** "Live Simply!" Theology on Tap from 7pm to 9pm. Location TBA.

**May 13<sup>th</sup>:** "Live Simply!" Follow-up session. Location TBA.

**May 27<sup>th</sup>:** Hike with Mass on Dupont Beach. We will meet at 5:30pm at Point Bishop Trailhead (end of Thane Road). Bring water, a sack dinner, and dress for the weather!



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*KATY RICE, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION*

### Sacramental Preparation

**Baptism:** Baptism classes for parents of infants and young children will be offered Mondays, April 14th & 21st from 6pm to 7:30pm in the Parish Hall. This is the last series of classes to be offered until September. If you are planning on having your child baptized this summer and have not attended classes within the past 4 years, please plan on attending these sessions. To register for these sessions or if you have questions regarding preparation, contact Katy: 586-1317 or [cathedraldre@acsalaska.net](mailto:cathedraldre@acsalaska.net).

### GODLY PLAY APRIL & MAY SCHEDULE

#### *Pre-school & Kindergarten Schedule*

- April 13<sup>th</sup>:* The Good Shepherd & the Wolf
- April 20<sup>th</sup>:* The Good Shepherd & the Lord's Supper (I)
- April 27<sup>th</sup>:* The Good Shepherd & the Lord's Supper (II)
- May 4<sup>th</sup>:* Ascension
- May 11<sup>th</sup>:* Pentecost
- May 18<sup>th</sup>:* **Last Day of Godly Play: Party!**

#### *Middle Grades Schedule*

- April 13<sup>th</sup>:* The Ascension
- April 20<sup>th</sup>:* Jesus & the Twelve
- April 27<sup>th</sup>:* The Good Shepherd & World Communion
- May 4<sup>th</sup>:* The Synagogue & the Upper Room
- May 11<sup>th</sup>:* The Mystery of Pentecost
- May 18<sup>th</sup>:* **Last Day of Godly Play: Party!**

#### *Upper Grades Schedule*

- April 13<sup>th</sup>:* The Good Shepherd & World Communion
- April 20<sup>th</sup>:* The Synagogue & the Upper Room
- April 27<sup>th</sup>:* The Circle of the Holy Eucharist
- May 4<sup>th</sup>:* The Holy Trinity
- May 11<sup>th</sup>:* The Mystery of Pentecost
- May 18<sup>th</sup>:* **Last Day of Godly Play: Party!**

**A special thanks to all of our wonderful catechists who have dedicated time, energy, and care into being with our children on Sunday mornings throughout the year:**

*Kim Champney, Jeannie Conneen, Diane DeSloover, Amy Fagnant, Daniel Fagnant, Kathy Hughes and Clairen Stone*

## Cathedral Youth Ministry April & May Schedule

- April 16<sup>th</sup>:* Middle School & High School meet separately in Parish Hall.
- April 23<sup>rd</sup>:* Rock Dump! Come climb the Walls!
- April 30<sup>th</sup>:* Youth Group Reconciliation Service, meet in the parish hall.
- May 7<sup>th</sup>:* Service project—details to be announced.
- May 14<sup>th</sup>:* Middle School & High School meet separately in Parish Hall.
- May 21<sup>st</sup>:* **Last Day of Youth Group: Party!**

### *Annual High School Retreat at the Shrine*

We will have our annual retreat for high schoolers on May 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> out at the Shrine. All high schoolers and 8<sup>th</sup> graders entering high school are welcome to this event! The retreat will include prayer, Mass, a bonfire on the Beach, fellowship, games, and lots of good food (we promise to remember the syrup for the pancakes this year!). Registration forms are available at the back of the Church. For more information please contact Katy at 586-1317 or [cathedraldre@acsalaska.net](mailto:cathedraldre@acsalaska.net).

**A special thank you to our awesome youth group volunteers who have dedicated their Wednesday evenings to being with our Middle School & High School youth: Jessica Hadfield, Nikola Juris and Katie Pulito**

## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month Take the Child Safety Quiz

Parents, guardians, and adults who care for children face constant challenges when trying to help keep children safer in today's fast-paced world. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) offers easy-to-use safety resources to help address these challenges. NCMEC's Web site offers a range of practical information for parents and guardians that will help keep children safe from harm. The site also features an interactive quiz on child safety designed for both adults and children. To take the quiz, visit the NCMEC Web site and click on "Child Safety": [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com).

For particular help you may call: Robbie Izzard, Diocesan Victim's Assistance Coordinator, 586-2227 ext. 25 or Katy Beedle Rice at 586-1317 or [cathedraldre@acsalaska.net](mailto:cathedraldre@acsalaska.net).



# CATHEDRAL PARISH DIRECTORY

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**Cathedral of the Nativity Web page**

**[www.juneaucathedral.org](http://www.juneaucathedral.org)**



## Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm

Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 am & 5:30 pm

Monday-Friday 12:10 pm

Friday 9:30am **Wildflower Court**

Saturday 9:30 am

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday 4:00 - 5:00 pm

and by appointment.

Celebrating 125 years of the  
Catholic Community of Juneau

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